

September 13, 1999

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USDA/FSIS Hearing Clerk
300 12th St. SW, Rm 102
Cotton Annex, Washington, DC 20250-3700
Docket No. 98-045N

Dear USDA/FSIS Hearing Clerk,

I am writing to you regarding the Presidents' Inter-Agency Council on Food Safety, which is now analyzing how to improve food safety.

I would like to stress that this is an excellent opportunity to address the treatment and conditions by which farm animals suffer. Problems include overcrowding animals, subjecting them to stressful procedures and conditions, feeding them chicken litter and feces, rendering diseased animals into animal feed, excessive use of antibiotics and other drugs, and inhumane and unhygienic transport and slaughter.

Food safety hazards first and foremost need to be addressed at the source, with mandatory safeguards at the animal production stage. These include more humane and hygienic treatment and conditions for farm animals. Short of this, any food safety plan is doomed to fail.

Regulatory authority at the production stage must be expanded, with adequate funding actively sought. My husband and I have both given up meat because of the lack of supervision at meat packing factories, the frequent use of antibiotics in animals, the practice of feeding animals other rendered animals, and the overall lack of oversight and concern for the welfare of the citizens eating this meat. I strongly encourage you to take strong steps to ensure the safety of our meat products.

Sincerely,



Susan Francis
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614/834-5902